

Message

From: Bohnenblust, Eric [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0331C49AEB404367AD226F6BD10D795D-BOHNENBLUST]
Sent: 9/8/2020 5:03:23 PM
To: Piper, Maya [Piper.Maya@epa.gov]; Wakefield, Benjamin J. [wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov]
CC: Overstreet, Anne [overstreet.anne@epa.gov]; Mendelsohn, Mike [Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov]; Cyran, Carissa [Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov]; Schwarz, Stephanie [Schwarz.Stephanie@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Re: 750 million GMO mosquitos - Request for comment (OPP IO AWARENESS)

I'm looking at it now. Thanks.

Eric Bohnenblust, Ph.D
Senior Biologist
Emerging Technologies Branch (ETB)
Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD)
Phone: 703-347-0426
Email: Bohnenblust.eric@epa.gov

From: Piper, Maya
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Wakefield, Benjamin J. <wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov>; Bohnenblust, Eric <Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov>
Cc: Overstreet, Anne <overstreet.anne@epa.gov>; Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>; Cyran, Carissa <Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov>; Schwarz, Stephanie <Schwarz.Stephanie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Re: 750 million GMO mosquitos - Request for comment (OPP IO AWARENESS)

Thanks Ben. Eric, the reporter's deadline is COB today so we need a response by 2 PM.

Thanks,

Maya Piper (*she/her/hers*)
Communication Services Branch
[Office of Pesticide Programs](#)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office: (202) 731-8966 | Cell: (231) 493-2745

From: Wakefield, Benjamin J. <wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 12:23 PM
To: Piper, Maya <Piper.Maya@epa.gov>; Bohnenblust, Eric <Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov>
Cc: Overstreet, Anne <overstreet.anne@epa.gov>; Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>; Cyran, Carissa <Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov>; Schwarz, Stephanie <Schwarz.Stephanie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Re: 750 million GMO mosquitos - Request for comment (OPP IO AWARENESS)

Hi Maya.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Thanks.

- Ben

From: Piper, Maya <Piper.Maya@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Bohnenblust, Eric <Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov>
Cc: Overstreet, Anne <overstreet.anne@epa.gov>; Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>; Wakefield, Benjamin J. <wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov>; Cyran, Carissa <Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Re: 750 million GMO mosquitos - Request for comment (OPP IO AWARENESS)

Hi Eric,

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Best,

Maya Piper (*she/her/hers*)
Communication Services Branch
[Office of Pesticide Programs](#)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office: (202) 731-8966 | Cell: (231) 493-2745

From: Lieberman, Paige <Lieberman.Paige@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Cyran, Carissa <Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov>; Piper, Maya <Piper.Maya@epa.gov>
Cc: Dinkins, Darlene <Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Re: 750 million GMO mosquitos - Request for comment (OPP IO AWARENESS)

Hi all –

IO comms sent the following up to Alex and Rick for review. See Alex's comment. Anything we can add to address her comment?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Background:

Oxitec is required to monitor and sample the mosquito population weekly in the treatment areas to determine how well the product works for mosquito control and to confirm that the modified genetic traits disappear from the male *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population over time. EPA has maintained the right to cancel the EUP at any point during the 24-month period if unforeseen outcomes occur.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Lieberman, Paige <Lieberman.Paige@epa.gov>
Cc: Piper, Maya <Piper.Maya@epa.gov>; Cyran, Carissa <Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov>; Dinkins, Darlene <Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Re: 750 million GMO mosquitos - Request for comment (OPP IO AWARENESS)

I took that from the press release. Your sentence is better.

Incoming:

My name is Susan Jhun and I'm a reporter with CUNY TV in New York City. I'm working on a story for our Emmy-nominated science show, Simply Science, about the EPA-approved pilot program to release over 750 million GMO mosquitoes in the Florida Keys as an alternative to spraying insecticides to combat Aedes Aegypti. I'm hoping to either get a statement or an on camera interview via zoom from an EPA spokesperson. I would like to know why The EPA approved the plan and what it's response is to those who object to the plan, arguing that the mosquitoes could put the environment and endangered species at risk.

Response:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Greg Siedschlag
Chief, Communication Services Branch
Office of Pesticide Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: (703) 603-9044
Cell: (571) 319-7949
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides>
pronouns: he/him/his

From: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2020 3:41 PM
To: Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Lieberman, Paige <Lieberman.Paige@epa.gov>
Cc: Piper, Maya <Piper.Maya@epa.gov>; Cyran, Carissa <Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov>; Dinkins, Darlene <Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Re: 750 million GMO mosquitos - Request for comment (OPP IO AWARENESS)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ed Messina, Esq.
Acting Office Director
Office of Pesticide Programs
Office of Chemical Safety & Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C.
p: (703) 347-0209

From: Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Lieberman, Paige <Lieberman.Paige@epa.gov>
Cc: Piper, Maya <Piper.Maya@epa.gov>; Cyran, Carissa <Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov>; Dinkins, Darlene <Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Re: 750 million GMO mosquitos - Request for comment (OPP IO AWARENESS)

Good call. Let's go with this:

Incoming:

My name is Susan Jhun and I'm a reporter with CUNY TV in New York City. I'm working on a story for our Emmy-nominated science show, *Simply Science*, about the EPA-approved pilot program to release over 750 million GMO mosquitoes in the Florida Keys as an alternative to spraying insecticides to combat *Aedes Aegypti*. I'm hoping to either get a statement or an on camera interview via zoom from an EPA spokesperson. I would like to know why The EPA approved the plan and what it's response is to those who object to the plan, arguing that the mosquitoes could put the environment and endangered species at risk.

Response:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Background:

EPA conducted a risk assessment evaluating potential effects to human health and the environment and concluded there would be no unreasonable adverse effects to humans or any other nontarget organisms including bats, birds, fish and amphibians.

EPA expects the OX5034 *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos would be an additional tool for controlling mosquitos, including those populations which are becoming resistant to currently registered insecticides. See our press release for more information.

In addition, EPA found there would be no effect to species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or their critical habitat associated with releases of OX5034 *Aedes aegypti*.

Greg Siedschlag
Chief, Communication Services Branch
Office of Pesticide Programs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: (703) 603-9044
Cell: (571) 319-7949
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides>
pronouns: he/him/his

From: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Lieberman, Paige <Lieberman.Paige@epa.gov>
Cc: Piper, Maya <Piper.Maya@epa.gov>; Cyran, Carissa <Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov>; Dinkins, Darlene <Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Re: 750 million GMO mosquitos - Request for comment (OPP IO AWARENESS)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ed Messina, Esq.
Acting Office Director
Office of Pesticide Programs
Office of Chemical Safety & Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C.
p: (703) 347-0209

From: Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Lieberman, Paige <Lieberman.Paige@epa.gov>
Cc: Piper, Maya <Piper.Maya@epa.gov>; Cyran, Carissa <Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov>; Dinkins, Darlene <Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Re: 750 million GMO mosquitos - Request for comment (OPP IO AWARENESS)

Hi Paige,

Here is our response. Deadline is 9/8.

Incoming:

My name is Susan Jhun and I'm a reporter with CUNY TV in New York City. I'm working on a story for our Emmy-nominated science show, Simply Science, about the EPA-approved pilot program to release over 750 million GMO mosquitoes in the Florida Keys as an alternative to spraying insecticides to combat Aedes Aegypti. I'm hoping to either get a statement or an on camera interview via zoom from an EPA spokesperson. I would like to know why The EPA approved the plan and what it's response is to those who object to the plan, arguing that the mosquitoes could put the environment and endangered species at risk.

Response:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Background:

EPA expects the OX5034 *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos would be an additional tool for controlling mosquitos, including those populations which are becoming resistant to currently registered insecticides. See our [press release](#) for more information.

In addition, EPA found there would be no effect to species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or their critical habitat associated with releases of OX5034 *Aedes aegypti*.

Greg Siedschlag

Chief, Communication Services Branch
Office of Pesticide Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: (703) 603-9044
Cell: (571) 319-7949
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides>
pronouns: he/him/his

From: Labbe, Ken <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Lieberman, Paige <Lieberman.Paige@epa.gov>; OPP FEAD CSB <OPP_FEAD_CSB@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: 750 million GMO mosquitos - Request for comment

All,

Please see inquiry below. Deadline 9/8. Thanks!

From: Susan Jhun <Susan.Jhun@tv.cuny.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 3:14 PM
To: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
Subject: Request for Comment

Hello Ms. Jenkins,

My name is Susan Jhun and I'm a reporter with CUNY TV in New York City.

I'm working on a story for our Emmy-nominated science show, Simply Science, about the EPA-approved pilot program to release over 750 million GMO mosquitoes in the Florida Keys as an alternative to spraying insecticides to combat *Aedes Aegypti*. I'm hoping to either get a statement or an on camera interview via zoom from an EPA spokesperson. I would like to know why The EPA approved the plan and what it's response is to those who object to the plan, arguing that the mosquitoes could put the environment and endangered species at risk.

My deadline to get a comment or interview is Tuesday, September 8th.

I would appreciate it if you could get back to me as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Susan Jhun